

**IRRIGATED LANDS REGULATORY PROGRAM UPDATE  
CENTRAL VALLEY WATER BOARD  
March 2013**

This month's Irrigated Lands Regulatory Program monthly report will provide an update on activities of the Central Valley Regional Water Quality Control Board (Central Valley Water Board) ILRP, as reported in the Central Valley Water Board's April 11/12, 2013 Executive Officer's report. Current and past ILRP program monthly reports can be found on the [State Water Board Irrigated Lands Regulatory Program](#) website.

**Meetings and Outreach**

On January 3, 2013, the ILRP Stakeholder Advisory Workgroup met in Rancho Cordova. At this meeting board counsel provided information on the new ex parte rules for general orders. The East San Joaquin Water Quality Coalition provided an update on the implementation of the Eastern San Joaquin River Watershed WDRs. Also, staff reported on the development of ILRP Waste Discharge Requirements (WDRs) and provided a presentation on the draft WDRs for individual growers.

On January 10, 2013, Regional Board staff met with environmental justice representatives regarding the implementation of East San Joaquin River Watershed WDRs and the development of ILRP WDRs. The group specifically discussed environmental justice concerns over providing public review and comment on reports developed under the WDRs.

On February 27, 2013, the ILRP Stakeholder Advisory Workgroup met in Fresno. At this meeting the East San Joaquin River Water Quality Coalition discussed a draft template for nitrogen management plan summary reports. Also, staff provided an update on development of the tentative WDRs for individual growers.

On March 7, 2013, Regional Board staff gave a presentation at the California Citrus Showcase sponsored by California Citrus Mutual. Staff presented an overview of the upcoming Tulare Lake Basin Area General Order WDR and responded to questions asked by the audience.

**General Waste Discharge Requirements (WDRs) Development**

**Individual Growers WDRs:**

Staff circulated tentative WDRs for individual growers (those not part of a third-party group) in March 2013 for a thirty-day comment period. The WDRs will be considered for adoption at the May 30/31, 2013 Central Valley Water Board meeting.

**Tulare Lake Basin WDRs:**

On February 20, 2013, Regional Board staff and the Executive Officer met with representatives of Paramount Farming and the Kern River Watershed Coalition Authority to discuss their concerns with the Tulare Lake Basin WDRs. On February 22, 2013, staff met with the Southern San Joaquin Valley Water Quality Coalition to discuss development of the long-term Irrigated Lands Regulatory Program. Topics discussed included implementation cost analysis and time schedules for compliance. The tentative WDRs were posted on the board's web site noticed for a thirty-day comment period on March 15, 2013.

**Sacramento River Watershed WDRs:**

On January 28, 2013, Regional Board staff met with representatives of the Sacramento Valley Water Quality Coalition (SVWQC) to discuss the development of the Sacramento River Watershed WDRs.

On February 15, 2013, Regional Board staff sent a working draft of WDRs to the SVWQC for their review and comment in preparation for a meeting between staff and SVWQC representatives held on April 4, 2013.

**Sacramento Valley Rice WDRs:**

On February 19, 2013, Regional Board staff met with representatives of the California Rice Commission (CRC) to discuss the Groundwater Assessment Report submitted by the CRC, and to review changes in the draft WDR based on the East San Joaquin Order. Copies of the proposed WDRs and surface water monitoring program were sent to the CRC representatives for comment prior to the next meeting held on March 18, 2013.

**Eastern San Joaquin River Watershed WDRs:**

The Executive Officer issued the Notice of Applicability (NOA) to the East San Joaquin Water Quality Coalition on January 11, 2013, approving the December 14, 2012 application to serve as the third party. The NOA identifies the due dates for several work products, including templates for the nitrogen management plan; nitrogen management plan summary report; sediment and erosion control plan; and farm evaluation. The templates, along with the outline for the Groundwater Quality Assessment report are due.

**Delta WDRs:**

On January 24, 2013, staff met with the San Joaquin County and Delta Water Quality Coalition (SJCDWQC) to discuss the development of WDRs. On March 6, 2013, staff and the coalition held the second meeting to discuss language in the Draft WDR Order. The Coalition provided WDR comments during the March 6, 2013 meeting based on the East San Joaquin Order. The Coalition focused comments on the Groundwater Assessment Report sections, including revised language to be considered. The meeting participants developed a task list to address the comments, which were discussed at the meeting held on April 11, 2013.

**Western San Joaquin River Watershed WDRs:**

On February 28, 2013, Regional Board staff met with representatives of the Westside San Joaquin River Watershed Coalition (Westside Coalition) to discuss steps for developing the Waste Discharge Requirements for growers within the Western San Joaquin River Watershed. The Westside Coalition will prepare comments and proposed changes based on the adopted Waste Discharge Requirements for the growers within the Eastern San Joaquin River Watershed. The next meeting was held on March 27, 2013.

**Grassland Bypass Project WDRs:**

On February 28, 2013 Regional Board staff met with representatives from the San Luis & Delta-Mendota Water Authority to discuss the Grassland Bypass Project WDRs. The discussions focused on how to address discharge to groundwater, in addition to the current requirements that focus on surface water discharges through the Grassland Bypass.

**Litigation and Petition**

The Sacramento County Superior Court hearing on the Program Environmental Impact Report and the short-term renewal of the conditional waiver was held on 29 March 2013 (Case No. 34-2012-80001186- CU-WM-GDS).

Three separate petitions were filed with the State Water Resources Control Board regarding the board's adoption of the "Waste Discharge Requirements General Order for Growers within the Eastern San Joaquin River Watershed that are Members of the Third-Party Group" (Resolution No. R5-2012-0116). Those petitions are identified as A-2239(a); A-2239(b); A-2239(c) and can be found on the [State Board website](#).

**Enforcement****California Water Code section 13260 & 13267 Orders, & Notices of Violation:**

In January 2013, Regional Board staff mailed 51 CWC §13267 Orders to landowners in the San Joaquin County and Delta Water Quality Coalition area. These Orders were issued to landowners who first received an outreach postcard and subsequently did not respond.

Also, in January 2013, Regional Board staff mailed 23 CWC §13260 to landowners who participated in the San Joaquin County and Delta Water Quality Coalition in 2011 but did not show up on the 2012 membership list. Regional Board staff coordinated with the coalition to ensure that these landowners were not enrolled in the coalition prior to the mailing.

In March 2013, Regional Board staff mailed an additional 16 CWC §13260 Orders to landowners who participated in the San Joaquin County and Delta Water Quality

Coalition in 2011 but did not show up on the 2012 membership list.

Also, in March 2013, Regional Board staff mailed 12 Notice of Violations to the landowners who failed to respond to the January 13267 Orders mentioned above.

**Letter to East San Joaquin Watershed Growers:**

In January 2013, Regional Board staff used Geographic Information Systems and county tax assessor's parcel information to prepare a list of landowners with parcels that likely require coverage under the Waste Discharge Requirements General Order for Growers within the Eastern San Joaquin River Watershed (General Order). And in January and February 2013, a total of 4,937 landowners with a total of 284,013 acres of land were mailed an outreach letter informing them of new ILRP requirements under the General Order, and how they could join the East San Joaquin Water Quality Coalition or get more information. Twenty-two percent (22%) of landowners have responded to the initial letter. About 8% of landowners sent letters have enrolled their parcels in the coalition (a total of over 20,000 acres). Some landowners responding have indicated they plan to enroll. Other responses include – the land is already under a water board permit (e.g., dairy general order); the property does not have irrigated agriculture; the land is not used to produce a crop for commercial sale; or the property is no longer owned by the person who received the letter.

Follow up outreach to these landowners who did not respond is ongoing (approximately 9% of letters mailed were returned).

**Coalition Groups**

**California Rice Commission:**

On February 22, 2013, the Executive Officer approved the management practices recommended by CRC for the 2013 Rice Pesticides Program. Implemented management practices for the 2012 season ensured the performance goal and water quality objective stated in the Basin Plan were met. Therefore, 2013 management practices will be the same.

On December 31, 2013, staff received the CRC Annual Monitoring Report (AMR) and electronic data deliverable for 2012. The review of the AMR is underway.

**East San Joaquin Water Quality Coalition:**

On January 4, 2013, the Executive Officer approved the East San Joaquin Water Quality Coalition (Coalition) request to remove Peaslee Creek at Lake Road from the Coalition's monitoring program due to lack of access and low flows. Monitoring will continue at the Mustang Creek at East Avenue sampling site which is in the same Coalition zone as the Peaslee Creek.

On January 8, 2013, staff held the 17th quarterly meeting with the East San Joaquin Water Quality Coalition to discuss progress of implementing the Coalition's

Management Plan, performance goals, and monitoring results.

On January 10, 2013, the Executive Officer sent a letter to the East San Joaquin Water Quality Coalition and Westside San Joaquin River Watershed Coalition outlining changes in the chlorpyrifos/diazinon TMDL monitoring schedule. The TMDL monitoring at compliance points in the San Joaquin River is required during periods of highest diazinon and chlorpyrifos use in the watershed, and in months when the greatest number of exceedances were observed in the past: once during the winter storm season, and monthly from May to September.

On January 15, 2013, the Executive Officer approved the East San Joaquin Water Quality Coalition request to update sample hold temperature for water and sediments, hold time for sediment samples, and the analytical method for analyzing triazine herbicides in water.

On January 25 and February 15, 2013, Regional Board staff received the East San Joaquin Water Quality Coalition's revised Monitoring and Reporting Program (MRP) MRP Plan and Quality Assurance Program plan (QAPP), respectively. The updated MRP Plan and QAPP consolidate the approved amendments since the October 2010 update, revise some laboratory analytical methods, and correct minor and typographical errors.

On March 1, 2013, Regional Board staff received the East San Joaquin Water Quality Coalition Annual Monitoring Report (AMR) for the period from January through December 2012, and the Quarterly Monitoring Data Report. The review of the AMR is underway.

On March 5, 2013, the East San Joaquin Water Quality Coalition (Coalition) requested to remove Burnett Lateral at 28 Mile Road from its monitoring program because the site is outside of the Coalition boundary adopted in the Waste Discharge Requirements General Order for Growers within the Eastern San Joaquin River Watershed. The Executive officer approved the request on March 8, 2013 and monitoring scheduled Burnett Lateral will occur at the next scheduled site, Mootz Drain at Langworth Road.

On March 12, 2013, Regional Board staff held the 18th quarterly meeting with the East San Joaquin Water Quality Coalition (Coalition) to discuss progress of implementing the Coalition's Management Plan, performance goals and status of other activities in progress.

**Sacramento Valley Water Quality Coalition (SVWQC):**

On March 14, 2013, Regional Board staff spoke at the Northeastern California Water Association (NECWA) annual meeting in Bieber, CA. The talk focused on planned enforcement/outreach activities in the Upper Pit River watershed and the Sac Valley WDR.

On February 5, 2013, Regional Board staff attended a meeting of Colusa Glenn subwatershed growers to support outreach for the Management Plans on Walker Creek.

On January 13, 2013, the Water Board received a request from the Coalition to determine that the pH Management Plan on Pope Creek has been completed. This request was approved with a letter from the Executive Officer on January 23, 2013.

The Coalition has requested that the following Management Plans be deemed complete: selenium in Willow Slough, received February 13, 2013; *Selenastrum* toxicity in Butte Slough, received on March 13, 2013; and chlorpyrifos and *Ceriodaphnia* toxicity in Walker Creek, received March 13, 2013. These requests are currently under review.

**San Joaquin County and Delta Water Quality Coalition:**

On January 8, 2013, Regional Board staff held a quarterly meeting with the San Joaquin County and Delta Water Quality Coalition (Coalition) to discuss progress of implementing the Coalition's Management Plan, performance goals, and TMDL monitoring.

On January 15, 2013, the Executive Officer approved the San Joaquin County and Delta Water Quality Coalition November 26, 2012 request to amend the MRPP and QAPP. The request proposed to modify preservation temperature for water and sediment samples, sample holding time for sediment chemistry and total organic carbon analysis, and to update the analytical method for triazines.

On March 1, 2013, Regional Board staff received the San Joaquin County and Delta Water Quality Coalition Annual Monitoring Report. Regional Board staff is reviewing and preparing comments.

On March 12, 2013, Regional Board staff held the 18th quarterly meeting with the San Joaquin County and Delta Water Quality Coalition to discuss progress of implementing the Coalition's Management Plan and the upcoming TMDL Basin Plan amendment. The Basin Plan amendment is scheduled to go before the Board in May 2013.

On March 15, 2013, the San Joaquin County and Delta Water Quality Coalition requested that the Executive Officer consider 27 management plans to be complete (i.e., there is no longer evidence of a water quality problem for a particular water body/parameter combination or there is not an irrigated agricultural source). The Executive Officer approved the request to consider 20 of the 27 management plans complete. Regional Board staff will provide the Coalition with additional information regarding the other seven management plans.

**Westside Coalition:**

On February 20, 2013, Regional Board staff held the Westside San Joaquin River Watershed Coalition quarterly meeting to discuss 2012 subwatershed review and Coalition outreach status.

On February 21, 2013, Regional Board staff sent a letter to the Westside San Joaquin River Watershed Coalition indicating their November 2012 Semi Annual Monitoring Report (SAMR) was complete.

On March 5, 2013, Regional Board staff participated in the Westside San Joaquin River Watershed Coalition steering committee meeting. Regional Board staff discussed the outcome of the February 20, 2013 Coalition quarterly meeting, WDR time schedule, and follow up Management Plan activities for Ingram and Hospital Cr.

### **Data Management**

Data reports received through March 1, 2013 are currently being prepared for loading into a California Environmental Data Exchange Network (CEDEN) comparable database provided by the Central Valley Regional Data Center (CV RDC). Additionally, Regional Board staff has begun the limited processing of prioritized data sets submitted prior to 2009. These sets have been classified as historical sets and will be loaded to the database and transferred to CEDEN as resources permit. Data from 2009 through 2011 for all Coalitions are available to the public on CEDEN. The most recent transfer occurred February 15, 2013 and added data through late 2012 for some coalitions. New data will continue to be transferred to CEDEN on a quarterly basis. The next transfer is planned for June 2013. Data collected prior to 2009 will continue to be available on the ILRP surface water quality data webpage.

### **Prop 84 Grant Funding**

Twenty-nine projects have been funded to date. Thirty-four additional projects have been approved for funding. Some farmers awarded funding withdrew their application. CURES will be working with subwatershed groups to inform growers that additional funding may be available. All projects should be completed by December 2014.

A contract has been executed for development of a soil erosion model that will estimate the change in sediment loading when farmers switch from furrow to micro-irrigation systems. Field measurements will be included to validate the model accuracy. The model is expected to be completed in December 2013.